**BOARD REPORTS**

**Annual Meeting of Members – MAY 1, 2025**

**Vice President’s Report – Leo Brooks**

Introduction. Welcome everyone. I am Leo Brooks the Branch Board Vice-President. I have also assumed the duties and responsibilities of the President until a new president is elected today. Before we get started, I have some safety announcements to make.

* In case of fire, exit the building using the stairs. Help each other to evacuate, especially those that are less mobile than others. Then please gather in the parking lot area behind me near Ferris Lane.
* Medical Station and AED Stations on each floor in case of a Medical Emergency as well as first aid kits in the storage room on this floor.

I would like to introduce our Branch Board Members.

* Chris Auger retired in Dec as our president but has kindly stayed on as a Director Web Editor and our Secretary.
* Julia Nichols is our Acting Treasurer.
* Manon Auger our Director for Events.
* Kathy Rupnow our Director Recruiting, and
* Mark Burchell our Director Communications.
* Volunteers Diane Michals, Jackie Akeson

The Annual Membership Meeting (AMM) is an important event for our Branch. It provides a forum for the Branch Board (Board) to report back to members and shape its future. Our Branch members are currently 1503 members strong. The Branch has been busy over the past year.

* We had an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October at which we had approximately 60 members attend – a good turn-out. Our guest speakers presented Ontario’s Medical Expense Tax Credit and Seniors Care at Home Tax Credit and were Nina Cabral, Program Advisory Specialist & Jeremy Bertrand, Senior Program Advisory Specialist.
* Branch Activities. We have had monthly Branch Board meetings and addressed several administrative issues. Our Branch Board has been busy developing our calendar of events for 2025 and 2026, tracking outstanding issues, confirming our succession planning and preparing for this AMM on May 1st. It takes a lot of work to prepare for our AMM and I would like to thank one of our Directors, Manon Auger, for her efforts in putting this AMM together. I would also like to thank our Branch Board Members and volunteers for their help with this meeting.
* NAFR AMM. Since our last Annual Membership Meeting, I attended the National Association Annual Membership Meeting with our past-President. This was a two-day affair held in June in Gatineau near Ottawa. Representatives for all the branches across the country were in attendance.
* ON District Mtg. I also attended an ON District Mtg on Oct 22/23 with our past-President. The mtg is open to all Branches in ON and was held in Toronto.
* Remembrance Day Wreaths. The Huronia Branch contributed a Wreath for the Remembrance Day memorial service in Barrie. We will be contributing wreaths in Keswick as well this year.
* Strategic Plan Comments. The National Board has put together a National Strategic Plan and given our Huronia Branch Board the opportunity to provide comments. We expect to be briefed on the New National Strategic Plan and vote on it at the upcoming National AMM in June.
* Change of Huronia Branch Board Members. In December 2024 our Treasurer and President resigned and a new Treasurer Julia Nichols was appointed to the Treasure position and I as Vice-President assumed the responsibilities of the President. Our former President Chris Auger stayed on as Director at Large with the responsibilities of Web Editor and Secretary.
* Huronia Branch Positions. We have Huronia Branch Board Positions available for nominations and elections which our Chair of the Nominations Committee, Peter Evans, will address later.
* Ontario Spring District Meeting. I have just come back from attending a two-day meeting in Toronto. This was a meeting of the 21 Branch Presidents or their representative. It was an opportunity to discuss what the National Organization is doing to protect our pensions and benefits and what Branches are doing to service their members and recruit new members, board members and volunteers. We also were updated on a number of issues the NO has been working on with consultant and member committees like the new web-page, restructuring the National Association to make it more effective, confirming the Strategic Plan, increasing our recruiting to achieve 75% of the Federal Retirees to join NAFR by 2025 and conducting elections for a new President and Directors for the next three years. These topics will all be presented and discussed at the National AMM in June. The Niagara Branch announced that they celebrated the birthday of one of their members recently a 110-year-old man who happens to be the oldest man in Canada.

Looking to the future.

* We have been reviewing the National Association By-Laws and our Branch By-laws to ensure that we understand both By-Laws clearly and that our By-laws and the National By-Laws agree. We have reviewed our By-Laws and have drafted some amendments which will be presented to our Huronia Branch members for approval and then submit these to NO NAFR for their concurrence.
* We are planning to hold a Meet and Greet on June 10th at the Wasaga Legion for the Collingwood, Stayner, Wasaga Beach Members in the hopes of attracting more members and volunteers to join our Board so we can represent our members effectively.
* We are looking to have more social events to make being a member of the Huronia Branch more fun and are looking for ideas.

**Treasurer’s Report – Julia Nicholls**

This report is for the Fiscal Year Ending 31 December 2024 and will include:

1. the report for the year ending 2024
2. the reviewed 2024 Financial Statements
3. the 2025 budget
* These documents will become available on the Branch website over the next few weeks. Anyone wishing to delve a bit deeper into these financial activities can contact me for access to the records.
* As a Branch within a Not-for-Profit Corporation, we are not required to prepare a complete set of financial statements. Rather, National Office introduced a “CRM” system in 2018 to maintain uniform financial records across the country. The two reports the Branch is mandated to use to meet their reporting requirements are:
1. Balances Report,
2. Earnings and Loss Report
* In addition to these two reports, the Branch can also run off reports on various detailed aspects of our financial position, and NHQ has access to all the data entered into CRM and can offer support and oversight.
* If you would turn your attention now to the paper titled Financial Statement page 1 – Balances. This is a summary of our Assets, our Liabilities, and our funds put aside in Reserves. Our net assets over the 2024 year were $39,065.87. Of that figure, we had set aside Reserved funds for future anticipated expenses; for example, training courses for new executive members, recruitment events, advocacy events, etc. Our total Reserve funds amounted to $23,500.00. The $39,065 figure minus the $23,500 figure gives you the $15,565.87 figure shown as the second from the bottom number.
* Turning now to the Financial Statement page 2 Earnings and Loss for 2024, you will be able to see a summary of what our revenues were, and our expenses. $13,343.05 was our total income for 2024. I’m sorry, but I cannot explain what the $6.84 fee adjustment was all about. That was a National Office input and therefore is what it is. That aside, you can see that we did better than last year with income, both with the membership increase and with a good year in a GIC that we hold, re: the interest it paid out.
* Our operating expenses were close to what was spent last year, at $7,696.14. NHQ decided, however, that we did not spend enough in 2023, so we had to return a “surplus” amount of $2,866.78 to them, shown here as “miscellaneous”. Of the Reserves mentioned earlier, $2921.00 was spent in Training and Succession Planning, resulting in a total of $13,483.92 in expenses. That’s $140.87 more than the revenue for the year, now showing as a loss, but well covered by monies in the bank at the end of 2023. I’ll let that all sink in for a moment, and then I’ll ask if there are any questions that I might be able to answer. Unfortunately, Noreen is not present today, to explain some of the details, but I’ll do my best to fill in.

***I would like it noted in the minutes here now that the Financial Statements for 2024, showing a loss of $140.87 has been presented to the members of the Huronia Branch ON35.***

* Turning you attention now to the Reserves budget. I know the paper says Year Ending Dec 2024, but remember, this is a future plan, a forward-looking budget plan, for activities expected to occur within the next 3 to 5 years. There are 5 categories. Previously, the branch had set aside $4,500.00 for Advocacy activities. With 2 elections expected, a Federal one in 2025 and a Provincial one in 2026, the Advocacy reserve budget was increased to $4,800.00 going forward into 2025. IT and Equipment was left at $6,000. Recruitment and Communications was also increased from $1,000.00 to $2,000.00 as a preliminary research of magazine advertisements have shown a marked increase in rates. Special Events remains at $6,000. Remember, these figures are not for one year only or for one event only, but rather a sum of 2 or 3 events likely to occur over the next 3 to 5 years, in each category. On page 2 of the Reserve budget, under Training and Succession, we used $2,920.95 during 2024. This came from the initial reserve of $6000.00 set aside in 2023. According to NHQ instructions, we returned the balance of $3,079.05 back into our unreserved account as of 31 Dec 2024, and now we “reassign” $6,000.00 into the new reserve fund going forward as of 1 Jan 2025. Not too complicated, right????

 ***I would like it noted now in the minutes that the Reserves Template totalling $24,800.00 has been presented to the membership of the Huronia Branch ON35.***

Any questions?

* Now, I would like to draw your attention to the final paper there on the table to do with finances, namely the 2025 budget. I apologize for forgetting to remove the word “draft” from the title, as you will note that on page 2, this budget was approved and passed by your board in Feb 2025. I’ve broken the headings down a bit differently than in past presentations, hopefully to explain things a little bit better. I hope this aligns better with our bylaws, in clarifying what expenses are directly related to our mandate, or reason for existing; and then showing the “support” or general administrative costs of doing business. I did, however, produce the pages in a format that this branch has apparently used for several years now, leading with Expenses first and then following that with Revenue/Income.
* I am somewhat new to this position, so I have classified this AGM as Information Sharing, as it is a required meeting under our bylaws. Our fall meeting is actually “optional” according to our bylaws, so it is showing under General costs, Branch Members Meeting. That $500.00 is the anticipated cost of the hall rental, with the cost of the meal in the line below.
* I’ll give you a few minutes to review. I know there isn’t one sheet per person, so if you have already looked at this info, please pass the paperwork to your neighbour.

Any questions?

***I would like it notated in the minutes that I have presented the 2025 budget with a positive balance of $20.24, to the members of the Huronia Branch ON35.***

* Apparently, some years, the membership is also presented with a draft for the year still to come. In this case, 2026. That isn’t going to happen this year, because there are way too many variables for me to even come close to being comfortable with a wild guess. For example, in 2024, our Zoom license cost us $269.17. For 2025, it’s gone up to $352.00. The cost of fuel for travelling is see-sawing up and down. We had a federal election just days ago, but in preparing for this meeting, it was unknown which party, and their platform would become the new focus. With the administration in power to the south of us, imposing tariffs, causing layoffs and generally causing havoc in Ontario, I just can’t estimate what anything is going to cost in 2 weeks, let alone 7-8 months from now. However, I do have one prediction to make as of today. Please save the loonies and quarters that you might find in your pockets over the course of the summer. I strongly believe that the costs associated with our fall meeting will result in a higher cost for the lunch meal that follows. It may only be up to $9.00. But it may be up to $13.00. A total unknown right now today, but please don’t let that scare you away from coming out. Hopefully I’ve given you enough advance notice to squirrel away an extra few buck.
* The last official function I have to do right now is to remind you that at each AGM, the membership is required to appoint an individual to perform a review to the Branch’s financial activities, procedures, recordkeeping and financial position. This is NOT an audit, but someone familiar with or knowledgeable in financial management or auditing is the person we are looking for. Do we have any volunteers who would like to put their name(s) forward for this position? The work is usually done between middle of Feb and mid-April 2026.
* Before I relinquish the podium, I want to express my thanks to Noreen Campbell, who has mentored me from June of last year, showing me how the CRM system works as I job shadowed her until the end of Dec past. I also want to thank Peter Evans for again being our year end reviewer and his guidance on “correcting” an error by National Office, which I could not seem to get them to understand and correct at their end.
* In summary, the Branch’s current financial situation is sound.

**Advocacy Report – Leo Brooks**

* MPs Riding Offices. I have been actively supporting NAFR Nat’l objectives by visiting some MP Riding Offices in our catchment area along with our Past-President Chris Auger.
* Provincial and Federal Elections. For the Provincial and Federal elections, we participated in political forums held in Barrie. This was an opportunity to get to know some of the MPPs and MPs up for re-election and candidates for the various political parties in the ridings in and around Barrie and discuss some of the issues of concern to the public.

**Communication Report – Marc Burchell**

* There were 96 calls made by 9 callers for this meeting.  An average of about 11 calls per caller. This month's callers were Allen Atwell, Harry Austen, Wally Capsticks, Peter Evans, Joan Gauthier, Bev Murphy, Monika Sargeant, Donna Wallace, and Susan Wehling. Welcome Joan to the team - she made her first calls.
* I hope everyone received their Fall issue of the SAGE magazine with the insert. The winter issue of SAGE magazine will be delivered from December 2 to 11. There will not be an insert in the winter issue.
* The pictures that I take today will be in the Spring issue, which will be delivered in early March 2025.
* There is a sheet at each table to suggest speakers and topics, and another sheet if you would like to volunteer.

**Membership and Recruitment Report – Kathy Rupnow**

Federal Retirees has a proud history of advocacy on behalf of our more than 170,000 members and all retirees.

* Membership is open to anyone paying into or receiving a pension from Canada's Public Service, the RCMP or the Canadian Armed Forces, federally appointed judges and to honorably discharged non-pensioned veterans. Their spouses and survivors are also eligible to join Federal Retirees. Membership costs just $57.24 per year ($4.77 per month) for an individual and $74.40 per year ($6.20 per month) for a couple. This amount helps support Federal Retirees’ work for better pensions for all Canadians and provides full access to all benefits. The double membership option doubles your impact and provides membership to a spouse or partner! Both become eligible for [all member benefits](https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/joining-us/a-membership-with-benefits), including [our exceptional rates on MEDOC travel insurance](https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/preferred-partners/travel-partners/medoc-travel-insurance-through-johnson-inc). You can turn a single membership into a double membership for only $1.43 more per month.
* Since our general meeting in October, I have continued to contact members every month that do not have their dues deducted from the source of their pension to let them know when their renewal is coming up. Any existing member who makes the switch to DDS will receive a one-time special offer of three free months of membership. That's a savings of 25 per cent! This offer is also available for new members who opt to pay by DDS when they join.
* I contacted new members to the Branch to welcome them. I may have emailed or spoken to a few here today.
* I attended the Membership Recruitment Committee that meets every quarter to discuss best practices and information regarding recruitment. The last meeting was held in January. The main discussion centered on a refresher course on how to navigate our website and the processing of memberships.
* The Huronia Branch attended a “My Transition Seminar” formerly known as SCAN at Base Borden on November 7th. There is another My Transition Seminar at Borden on May 28th that we have been invited to attend.
* There was a planned general membership ZOOM meeting on November 20th at 10:30 a.m. regarding Volunteer Recruitment and Succession Planning. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the membership more broadly about volunteer opportunities and the plans to fill roles that were vacant or soon to be vacant. The Board meetings are taking place on ZOOM most of the time now so geography is not limiting participation. However, there was no interest shown and the meeting was cancelled.
* The Board has open positions currently and there is the opportunity to get nominated and be elected today. If you aren’t looking for the kind of commitment required to be on the Board, you could also volunteer for short-term needs such as committees to help with planning and organizing events. We have several volunteers that do phone calling and help us out with registration at meetings etc. Please sign the sheet on your table if you would like to volunteer in any capacity. If you want to know more about what’s involved before you commit, please don’t hesitate to ask one of the Board members about what’s involved.

Questions?